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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA RENUMBERING)
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PTER, KPAO, CO
SUBJECT: CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS DURING ARMED CONFLICT
CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 20-22

REF: BOGOTA 5953

1. SUMMARY: ON SEPTEMBER 20-22, US EMBASSY'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION, IDEAS PARA LA PAZ NGO, CARACOL, RCN, SEMANA, AND EL TIEMPO JOINTLY SPONSORED THE "CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS DURING ARMED CONFLICT" CONFERENCE IN CARTAGENA. THE CONFERENCE WAS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
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ATTENDED BY A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF COLOMBIAN ELITES, INCLUDING VICE PRESIDENT FRANCISCO SANTOS, MINISTER OF DEFENSE MARTA LUCIA RAMIREZ, HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PEACE LUIS CARLOS RESTREPO, KEY COLOMBIAN BUSINESSMEN AND POLITICIANS, MEMBERS OF NGOS, AND PROMINENT ACADEMICS FROM COLOMBIA, THE U.S., AND BRITAIN. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE WAS TO EXAMINE THE ROLE AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE DEFENSE OF COLOMBIA, AND IN STRENGTHENING THE COUNTRY'S DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, AS NOTED IN EMBASSY'S STRATEGIC ROADMAP CABLE, (REFTEL).

2. GUEST SPEAKERS MADE 14 EXCELLENT PRESENTATIONS ON VARIOUS TOPICS, INCLUDING THE HISTORY OF CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS IN COLOMBIA, THE ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION OF INTELLIGENCE, CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF THE MILITARY'S BUDGET, TERRORISM AND RULE OF LAW, AND URIBE'S "DEMOCRATIC SECURITY" PLAN. THERE WAS STRONG CONSENSUS THAT THE MOD SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED WITH A PROFESSIONAL CIVIL SERVICE, AND THAT CIVILIANS SHOULD BE MORE INVOLVED IN THE MILITARY'S BUDGET

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AND INTELLIGENCE MATTERS. THE GREATEST DISAGREEMENT CAME OVER URIBE'S EFFORTS TO ENLIST GREATER CIVILIAN SUPPORT FOR HIS GOVERNMENT'S SECURITY INITIATIVES. MANY PARTICIPANTS COMPLAINED THAT THE URIBE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT ADEQUATELY EXPLAINED HOW ITS VARIOUS CIVILIAN-BASED SECURITY INITIATIVES FIT INTO THE GOC'S BROADER NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY. END SUMMARY.

3. A CROSS SECTION OF COLOMBIA'S ELITE ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE. SEVERAL CABINET-LEVEL OFFICIALS ATTENDED, INCLUDING VICE PRESIDENT FRANCISCO SANTOS, MOD MARTA LUCIA RAMIREZ, HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PEACE LUIS CARLOS RESTREPO, AND PLAN COLOMBIA COORDINATOR SANDRA SUAREZ. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MOD INCLUDED VICE MOD BERNARDO ORTIZ, AND THREE OF FOUR PRINCIPAL NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY DRAFTERS. CARLOS FRANCO REPRESENTED THE VICE PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE, AND ANDRES DAVILA REPRESENTED THE PLANNING MINISTRY. COLOMBIAN CONGRESSPERSONS INCLUDED PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE WILLIAM VELEZ, GEN. (RET.) JAMIE CANAL, AND SANDRA CEBALLOS. COLOMBIAN SENATORS INCLUDED RAFAEL PARDO, ANTONIO NAVARRO, LUIS GUILLERMO VELEZ, CARLOS GAVIRIA, AND FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT CARLOS GARCIA. ACADEMICS INCLUDED FERNANDO CEPEDA AND FRANCISCO LEAL OF LOS ANDES UNIVERSITY, MALCOLM DEAS FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY, AND MARK CHERNICK FROM GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MEDIA INCLUDED RCN RADIO NEWS DIRECTOR JUAN GOSSAIN, EDITOR OF EL ESPECTADOR FIDEL CANO, DIRECTOR OF EL UNIVERSAL PEDRO LUIS MOGOLLON, EL TIEMPO EDITOR RODRIGO PARDO, SEMANA MAGAZINE DIRECTOR

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ALEJANDRO SANTOS, AND EL TIEMPO CO-DIRECTORS ENRIQUE AND RAFAEL SANTOS. ALTHOUGH THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY COMMAND WAS INVITED, ONLY TWO LOCAL COMMANDERS ATTENDED.

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HISTORIC PERSPECTIVE ON CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS

4. MOD RAMIREZ, DURING HER OPENING REMARKS ON SEPTEMBER 20, AND MALCOLM DEAS FROM OXFORD UNIVERSITY, DISCUSSED COLOMBIA'S HISTORIC LACK OF MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL POLITICAL LIFE. DEAS TRACED THE ROOT OF STRAINED CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS IN COLOMBIA TO GEN. GUSTAVO ROJAS PINILLA'S DICTATORSHIP THAT ENDED IN 1957. PINILLA'S REIGN SPARKED DISTRUST BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND THE POLITICAL CLASSES. IN ADDITION, GOOD RELATIONS HAVE BEEN HAMPERED BY A LACK OF SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL INTERACTION BETWEEN POLITICIANS AND THE MILITARY. DEAS, AND OTHER CONFERENCE ATTENDEES, ASSERTED THAT THE LACK OF CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO CIVILIAN INDIFFERENCE TO MILITARY MATTERS AND CIVILIANS LACKING CREDIBILITY ON DEFENSE ISSUES IN THE EYES OF MILITARY LEADERS. DEAS WARNED THAT THERE IS NO QUICK FIX, AND CAUTIONED THAT WELL-INFORMED CIVILIAN INVOLVEMENT, AS OPPOSED TO CIVILIAN INTERFERENCE, SHOULD BE THE MOD'S GOAL. THE NEED FOR A CIVIL SERVICE IN THE MOD DREW CONSENSUS AND RESURFACED THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE.

5. FORMER M-19 GUERRILLA OTTY PATINO DISCUSSED THE MILITARY'S COLLUSION WITH PARAMILITARIES OVER THE YEARS. IN CONTRAST, CONGRESSMAN AND FORMER ARMY GENERAL JAMIE CANAL ASSERTED THAT SOLDIERS ARE THE MOST PATRIOTIC OF COLOMBIANS

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AND CONSISTENTLY HAVE RESPECTED THE COLOMBIAN CONSTITUTION.
CANAL POINTED TO VARIOUS EXAMPLES OF THE MILITARY RESPECTING
CIVILIAN DECISIONS, INCLUDING THE 1930 LAW THAT PROHIBITS
MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FROM VOTING AND THE MILITARY'S
RESPECT OF THE FARC'S "DESPEJE" DESPITE THEIR DISAPPROVAL OF
PASTRANA'S DECISION TO GRANT IT.

6. SENATOR RAFAEL PARDO, WHO IN 1990 WAS THE FIRST CIVILIAN
MOD, INDICATED THAT CIVILIANS NEED TO HAVE A GREATER
COMMITMENT TO RESOLVING THE CONFLICT, AND IN DEFINING
MILITARY STRATEGY. HE SAID CIVILIANS SHOULD DICTATE WHEN THE
MILITARY SHOULD APPLY USE OF FORCE, AND RECOMMENDED THAT
CIVILIANS GIVE COMMANDERS FIXED PERIODS TO SHOW RESULTS.
FORMER MOD RAMIREZ, WHO IS CREDITED WITH STRENGTHENING THE
CIVILIAN ROLE IN THE MOD, ALSO ARGUED THAT CIVILIANS SHOULD
EXACT RESULTS FROM THE PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES. HE
CHARACTERIZED RELATIONS AS SUFFERING FROM MUTUAL DISTRUST,
AND LAMENTED THE HISTORICAL LACK OF AN INTEGRATED
CIVIL-MILITARY STRATEGY. RAMIREZ SAID THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL
POLICE IS THE MOST MILITARIZED POLICE FORCE IN THE WORLD AND
STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE MILITARY. RAMIREZ OPINED THAT

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IMPROVED RE-INSERTION PROGRAMS -- RUN BY CIVILIANS -- WOULD LEAD TO INCREASED DESERTIONS BY FROM THE ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS.

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CIVILIAN ROLES IN INTELLIGENCE AND BUDGET

7. FORMER DAS INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR LAUDE FERNANDEZ DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR THE CREATION OF AN INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY FOCUSED ON THE ADMINISTRATION, COORDINATION, AND DISTRIBUTION OF STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE -- VICE OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE -- THAT WOULD BE USEFUL TO THE MOD. HE NOTED A 1995 DECREE ATTEMPTED TO CREATE A "TECHNICAL COUNCIL" TO OVERSEE THE GOC INTELLIGENCE GATHERING, WHICH FAILED BECAUSE IT LACKED A POLICY TO ACHIEVE ITS MANDATE AND DID NOT HAVE ADEQUATE BUY-IN FROM VARIOUS AGENCIES. FERNANDEZ ARGUED THAT THE GOC SHOULD RE-INITIATE INTELLIGENCE MEETINGS THAT ARE USEFUL TO THE MOD, AND INSTITUTE AN INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WITH A MECHANISM THAT ALLOWS POLITICAL CONTROL OVER THE COMMUNITY'S ACTIVITIES. FERNANDEZ RECOMMENDED: 1) CREATING AN INTEGRATED COUNCIL FOR AGENCY DIRECTORS; 2) DESIGNATING A LEADER FROM WITHIN THAT COMMUNITY WITH A DEFINED MANDATE; 3) DEFINING BASIC FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING ASSIGNING SPECIALIZED COMPETENCIES FOR EACH AGENCY; 4) DEFINING A SYSTEM FOR COORDINATION; AND 5) SETTING INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS AND A CAREER SERVICE FOR INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS.

8. BRITISH PETROLEUM'S DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AND NGO AFFAIRS ANDRES PENATE STATED THAT COLOMBIA'S MILITARY BUDGET IS INSUFFICIENT, GIVEN THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY PROBLEM. TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, THE GOC MUST LEVY GREATER TAXES, TURN TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR ASSISTANCE, OR ELICIT GREATER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR. HE DISCUSSED THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ECOPETROL AND THE MOD, WHICH HAVE ALLOWED ECOPETROL TO PROTECT OIL INFRASTRUCTURE. PENATE ACKNOWLEDGED

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THAT THERE MAY BE LONG-TERM RISKS TO INCREASED RELIANCE UPON PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT FOR SECURITY PROGRAMS, INCLUDING REDUCING THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE ARMY IN CERTAIN ZONES, AND TURNING LEGITIMATE COMPANIES INTO TERRORIST TARGETS. PENATE RECOMMENDED THAT THE GOC EXPAND PRIVATE SECTOR ACCESS TO THE HYDROCARBON INDUSTRY, CAPITALIZE THE PETROLEUM SECTOR, AND REDUCE TO ZERO ECOPETROL'S EXPLORATION RISK. MARGARET

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DALY-HAYES, FROM THE NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY, SUGGESTED THAT CIVILIANS OVERSEEING DEFENSE SHOULD ACT MORE LIKE CEOS AND FOCUS ON DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY AND INCENTIVE-BASED PERFORMANCE. ACCORDING TO DALY-HAYES, THE OBJECTIVE IS TO SPEND THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO OBTAIN THE MILITARY OBJECTIVES LAID OUT BY THE CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES. SHE RECOMMENDED CIVILIAN MANAGEMENT OF DEFENSE CONTRACTS, AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR AN "EXPERT" CIVILIAN STAFF IN THE MOD. OXY'S GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR ANDRES SOTO ARGUED THAT THE MILITARY BUDGET SHOULD BE CREATED BY FIRST DEFINING THE OBJECTIVES, THEN ASKING HOW MUCH THE PROPOSED SOLUTIONS WOULD COST, AND FINALLY BY FINDING THE MONEY TO FINANCE THE PROGRAMS. SOTO ARGUED THAT THE MILITARY'S PURCHASING PROCESS TAKES TOO LONG, AND IS PLAGUED BY COSTLY ADMINISTRATIVE OVERCHARGES. SOTO SUGGESTED THAT REFORM IN PURCHASING PRACTICES ALONE COULD INCREASE RESOURCES WITHOUT RAISING TAXES.

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THE URIBE ADMINISTRATION'S PERSPECTIVE

9. VICE PRESIDENT SANTOS SPOKE ON SEPTEMBER 21 ABOUT THE GOC'S COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS, COMBATING PARAMILITARISM, AND STRENGTHENING A CIVILIAN-RUN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. SANTOS STRESSED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CIVILIANS IN PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS, AND OPINED THAT THE GOC NEEDS TO TEACH PEOPLE TO INTERVENE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS. SANTOS CALLED FOR A CAREER MOD CIVILIAN STAFF, A TRANSPARENT MILITARY STRATEGY, BETTER INTEGRATION BETWEEN CIVILIAN POLICY-MAKERS AND THE ARMED FORCES, AND BETTER MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, ESPECIALLY WITH NGOS. SANTOS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LINKS BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND PARAMILITARIES EXIST AT THE OPERATIONAL LEVEL, BUT SAID THE GOC IS COMMITTED TO SEVERING THESE LINKS AND COMBATING PARAMILITARISM. SANTOS SAID THE COSTS ARE HIGH FOR NOT DOING SO, AND THAT THE GOC'S CREDIBILITY IS AT STAKE. SANTOS PROMISED "SERIOUS RESULTS" AGAINST THE PARAMILITARIES. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT THE MILITARY NEEDED TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ANY MISTAKES IT COMMITTED. HE CITED AS TWO EXAMPLES THE COLOMBIAN ARMY'S ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN AUGUST 2000, AND THE COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE'S ACCIDENTAL BOMBING OF THE SMALL TOWN OF SANTO DOMINGO IN DECEMBER 1998.

10. DURING HER OPENING REMARKS, MOD RAMIREZ OUTLINED URIBE'S NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY, FOCUSING ON URIBE'S DETERMINATION

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TO INCLUDE CIVILIANS IN THE CONFLICT BY INCORPORATING THEM INTO AUXILIARY FORCES, COOPERATION NETWORKS, AND INFORMANT NETWORKS. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PEACE RESTREPO EXPLAINED AND DEFENDED ASPECTS OF URIBE'S DEMOCRATIC SECURITY PLAN. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE NETWORK OF INFORMANTS WOULD BE PAID TO SUPPLY INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION TO THE STATE, WHILE COOPERATIVE NETWORKS WOULD PROVIDE LOCAL SECURITY, LIKE A

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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH. RESTREPO ALSO OUTLINED AND DEFENDED URIBE'S PEACE PROCESS PLAN. URIBE, HE SAID, WAS ELECTED BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF COLOMBIANS ON THE BASIS OF HIS DEMOCRATIC SECURITY PLAN. URIBE WILL ONLY RETURN TO THE PEACE PROCESS TABLE WHEN THE ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS AGREE TO PUT DOWN THEIR ARMS AND STOP ACTS OF TERRORISM. RESTREPO SAID URIBE HOPES TO INVOLVE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY THE UNITED NATIONS, IN ANY FUTURE TALKS WITH THE ARMED GROUPS. HE MENTIONED THAT TALKS ARE LIKELY TO RESUME WITH THE ELN IN CUBA. HE STATED THAT URIBE IS OPEN TO A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION, BUT WILL CONTINUE STRENGTHENING SECURITY CAPABILITIES UNTIL THE ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS AGREE TO URIBE'S REQUIREMENTS TO TALK (I.E., A CEASE-FIRE AND AN END TO HOSTILITIES).

OTHER TOPICS

11. OTHER TOPICS ADDRESSED INCLUDED THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO DEAL WITH ARMED CONFLICT IN COLOMBIA AND THE PROTECTION OF COLLECTIVE RIGHTS VERSUS INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS TO GUARANTEE PUBLIC ORDER. ON THE LATTER THERE WAS CONSENSUS ON THE NEED TO PASS A LAW TO DEFINE TERRORISM. ON SECURING PUBLIC ORDER,
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PARTICIPANTS EXAMINED THE USE OF EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES ALLOWED BY THE CONSTITUTION TO CONTROL TERRORISM AND THEIR TEMPORARY NATURE TO PREVENT THE RISK OF GOVERNMENT ABUSES.

12. THE NEED TO PROVIDE THE GENERAL PUBLIC WITH INFORMATION ON THE GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL SECURITY PLAN WAS ALSO WIDELY STRESSED. PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN GAINING CLARITY ON THE PLAN'S OBJECTIVES AND THE FUNCTION OF THE HIGH PEACE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE VIS-A-VIS THAT OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. NGO REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE ETHICS OF IMPLEMENTING ASPECTS OF THE DEMOCRATIC SECURITY PLAN, ESPECIALLY ANY EXTENSIVE USE OF REWARDS TO ENCOURAGE INFORMANTS. THEY STRESSED THE NEED TO CAREFULLY SCREEN THE VERACITY OF RECEIVED INFORMATION, AND TO PROTECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

PRESS COVERAGE

13. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE CLOSED TO THE PRESS, BUT COLOMBIAN JOURNALISTS INTERVIEWED CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS BETWEEN

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SESSIONS, AND MOST COLOMBIAN MEDIA DID CARRY SOME KIND OF STORY, ALL OF THEM POSITIVE. LEADING NATIONAL DAILY EL TIEMPO (9/22) WROTE "DURING THE SEMINAR (PARTICIPANTS) ACKNOWLEDGED THE NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO COMMUNICATE ITS

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SUBJECT: CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS DURING ARMED CONFLICT CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 20-22

DECISIONS REGARDING SECURITY IN ORDER TO STIMULATE COMMITMENT AND COOPERATION AMONG CIVILIANS."

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14. BROADCAST MEDIA CARRIED INTERVIEWS WITH PARTICIPANTS OVER THE COURSE OF THE WEEKEND AND BEYOND. THE MOST IMPORTANT WAS CONFERENCE CO-SPONSOR, RCN RADIO, WHICH AIRED A WEEKLONG SERIES OF INTERVIEWS AND ANALYSES WITH SEVERAL OF THE SPEAKERS AND PARTICIPANTS DURING ITS MORNING NEWS SHOW (APPROXIMATELY 5 MILLION LISTENERS). THIS PROGRAM EXPANDED ON THE SEMINAR DISCUSSION TOPICS, INCLUDING A) ESTABLISHING COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS ON DEFENSE AND SECURITY POLICY; B) DEFINING AREAS OF CIVIL PARTICIPATION IN DEFENSE AND SECURITY STRATEGY; C) CLARIFYING DEFENSE AND SECURITY POLICY-RELATED CONCEPTS AND TERMS; AND D) BRAINSTORMING ON POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES TO BE DEVELOPED BY CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS THAT WOULD ENHANCE BOTH MILITARY AND CIVIL ROLES IN IMPLEMENTING SECURITY POLICY. GUESTS INCLUDED POLITICAL ANALYST AND SEMINAR CO-COORDINATOR FERNANDO CEPEDA, SECURITY EXPERT LAUDE FERNANDEZ, AND CONGRESSMAN ANTONIO NAVARRO AND CARLOS GAVIRIA. ONE OF THE BIGGEST SUCCESSES OF THE SEMINAR IS THE CHANGE IN POINT OF VIEW IN THE MEDIA COVERAGE, FROM DISCUSSIONS OF THE DIVIDE BETWEEN MILITARY AND CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS, TO A NEW, CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT CIVIL SOCIETY HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN DEFENSE AND SECURITY PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION.

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15. EL TIEMPO WILL PUBLISH THE COMPLETE PROCEEDINGS IN BOOK AND COMPACT-DISC FORM AND MAKE THEM AVAILABLE ON ITS WEBSITE.

COMMENT

16. PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED IN LIVELY, SOMETIMES HEATED, DISCUSSIONS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE CONFERENCE. OVERALL, THERE WAS CONSENSUS ON THE NEED FOR A CIVIL SERVICE IN THE MOD AND BETTER CIVILIAN CONTROL OF INTELLIGENCE AND MILITARY BUDGET MATTERS. TENSIONS FLARED, HOWEVER, OVER URIBE'S DEMOCRATIC SECURITY PLAN AND HIS PEACE PROCESS POLICY. VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS, MOSTLY ON THE LEFT, VOICED THEIR DISAPPROVAL OF URIBE'S PEACE PLAN AND DEMANDED THAT THE GOC CONSULT THE POPULATION BEFORE IMPLEMENTING ITS SECURITY PROGRAMS. THE HOSTILE REACTION BY THOSE ON THE LEFT TO URIBE'S PROGRAMS INVOLVING CIVILIANS WAS NOTEWORTHY BECAUSE IT WAS CLEAR THAT NONE OF THESE WELL-INFORMED COLOMBIANS WERE AWARE OF URIBE'S NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OR UNDERSTOOD HOW THE GOC'S SECURITY INITIATIVES PROGRAMS FIT INTO AN OVERALL SECURITY PLAN. THEIR LACK OF UNDERSTANDING WAS A SIGNAL TO

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THE GOC THAT IT HAS TO MAKE A GREATER EFFORT TO EDUCATE COLOMBIANS ON ITS OVERALL SECURITY STRATEGY.

17. THE LIMITED PARTICIPATION OF HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS FROM THE COLOMBIAN ARMED FORCES WAS NOTED. ONE MEMBER OF THE ARMY WHO DID ATTEND SAID THAT THE MILITARY COMMANDERS WERE TOO BUSY OVERSEEING MANY MILITARY OPERATIONS UNDERWAY. SOME, HOWEVER, BELIEVED THAT THE ABSENCE OF HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY COMMANDERS SIGNALLED THE MILITARY'S DISCOMFORT WITH EXCHANGING

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VIEWS ON CIVIL-MILITARY ISSUES WITH INFLUENTIAL CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES, WITHOUT HAVING SUFFICIENT PRESIDENTIAL AND MOD GUIDANCE.

18. AS INTENDED, THE CONFERENCE ADDRESSED CHANGES IN PUBLIC POLICY FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY AND THE NEW ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH POLICY. IT ALSO EXAMINED NEW DIMENSIONS OF THE COLOMBIAN DOMESTIC CONFLICT AND POSSIBLE LEGAL, MILITARY AND CIVIL ACTIONS WHILE VENTILATING CONCERN OVER THE NEED TO DEVELOP CONSENSUS ON CIVIL-MILITARY ISSUES. IN SUM, THE SEMINAR CONTRIBUTED TO FACILITATE A TIMELY ANALYSIS OF THE PROS AND CONS OF THE GOC'S DEMOCRATIC SECURITY PLAN IN ITS EARLY STAGES, PROVIDING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITH BADLY NEEDED FEEDBACK TO MAKE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR COMPLETING ITS DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION.

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